Tea Board for purposes of export are not related to the quality control parameters fixed by the European Union in respect of pesticide residue. Exporters are required to ensure the quality control as per the prescription of individual importing countries.

(d) Tea Board has been communicating the concerned pesticide regulations and stipulations to the trade and industry and also have held discussions with tea industry. Indian tea industry and also the Tea Research Institutes are organising seminars/Workshops/training programmes at the grass root level to educate the managerial staff and the field level workers about the dose specificity of chemicals, various stipulations on pesticide residues, gap period to be followed between spraying and plucking and regarding withdrawal of registration of chemicals like DDT, Tetradifon, Heptachlor, BHC etc.

Liberalisation of imports of second-hand capital Goods

704. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is liberalising the import of second-hand capital goods; and

(b) if so, what are the details of this policy and its likely impact on internal industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Import of second hand capital goods of a minimum age of seven years and having a minimum residual life of five years is permitted freely in twenty industrial sectors as specified in Appendix III of the Export & Import Policy, 1992—97 (Revised Edition: March 1993) copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(c) Review of the Policy is a continuing and ongoing process and changes are made as and when considered necessary in public interest.

Exports to Russia and Ex-Soviet Republics

705. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exports to Russia and Ex-Soviet Republics is now stabilised; and

(b) what is the amount of export made to those countries separately in the year 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Exports to Russia and Ex-Soviet Republics are responding to the specific measures taken for their promotion. The strategy is designed to sustain the momentum of growth.

(b) The aggregate amount of exports to these countries in the year 1992-93 was Rs. 1693.2 crores. Separate figures for exports to these countries are available only since April 1993.

Report on working of Directorate general of Supplies and disposals

706. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since received the report of the high-powered Committee to re-orient the working of the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D);

(b) if so, what are its broad features; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) A Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Director General (Supplies and Disposals) to simplify the rules and procedure being followed in

the DGS&D. The Report of the Committee has not been received.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Benefits of Anti-dumping code

707. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the benefits that India expect to get from the new anti-dumping code of the Uruguay Round; and

(b) the items for which India will have to phase out export subsidies and its impact on India's overall trading operations?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The rules in the area of anit-dumping have been improved. The criterion for initiation of an investigation has been made more stringent requiring at least 50% of the domestic industry to be consulted and at least 25% of the domestic industry should support the application. Further a minimum margin of dumping has been prescribed below which no anti-dumping investigation shall lie. A minimum level of imports has also been prescribed below which no anti dumping investigation shall lie. There is also a provision for termination of anti dumping duties 5 years after their imposition unless determined otherwise. The Strengthened rules will tend to check the tendency of using Anti dumping investigations as a protectionist device.

(b) Countries like India with a per capita income of less than US $ 1000 annually have been exempted from the obligation to phase out export subsidies in general on industrial products. However, even these countries have to phase out over a period of 8 years, export subsidies on products in which they have attained a share of 3.5% of world trade of that product for two consequetive years. At present Diamond exports from India exceed the threshold level of 3.5%. It is not possible to assess at this point of time the impact of the phase out which has to be effected after 8 years, on India's trading operations.

Steps to Improve and Enlarge Farm Exports

708. SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps that have been taken to improve and enlarge the exports of farm products;

(b) the foreign countries where there is a potential market for farm produces from India;

(c) the commodities from agriculture sector that were exported in the recent years;

(d) the volume of export of these commodities in the years 1991, 1992 and 1993; and

(e) the trend of export of these commodities in the year 1993-94?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIIVL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) The major items of exports from India of farm produce are spices, deoiled cakes, tabacco, cashew, rice, wheat, fruits and vegetables, etc. The major destinations being countries in West Asia, South East Asia, USA and Europe.

Government attaches special importance to the growth of export in the agriculture sector. Government plans to encourage export of superfine varieties of rice, durum wheat, fresh fruits and vegetables, processed foods, cashew kernels spices, oilcakes, meat and meat products etc. in a big way. While maximising foreign exchange from the agriculture sector, the strategy of the Government is to allow the export of items of mass consumption in such a